

## EFFECT OF WEATHER ON CROPS AND FARMING OPERATIONS, MAY, 1920.

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The weather during the first decade of May was much more favorable for the growth of vegetation and farm work than had theretofore prevailed in most parts of the United States. It continued too cool, however, in the Eastern States for best growth, and more moisture was needed in some far western districts, but the general rains in the lower Great Plains and much of Texas were very beneficial. Corn planting made, mostly, favorable advance, although it was rather cool in most Southern States for good growth, and planting was delayed in parts of the Ohio Valley, on account of wet soil. The rainfall in the western portion of the cotton belt was beneficial, but it continued too wet and cool in the southeastern cotton districts and planting was very backward in that section. Winter wheat made steady improvement in the principal producing area, although the advance was not so satisfactory in much of the Ohio Valley. Much better weather prevailed during this period in the spring wheat belt, and rapid progress was made in seeding; a general improvement was reported in pastures, meadows, and ranges, and in most sections in truck also.

Much of the second decade of the month was too cool in the Central and Eastern States for warm-weather crops, but more favorable temperatures prevailed in the extreme West. Planting corn was further delayed in the middle and upper Mississippi and lower Ohio Val-

leys on account of continued wet soil. It was generally unfavorable for cotton in the eastern portion of the belt, on account of persistent cool nights, but the rainfall in southern and western Texas was highly beneficial, and cotton made very good progress in that State. Winter wheat continued to improve under favorable weather conditions, while spring wheat made satisfactory advance. There was also some improvement in oats and barley but growth was generally slow, while potatoes, pastures, and meadows made favorable advance in all sections.

The last decade of the month was favorable for the growth of vegetation in most sections of the country, although it was much too cool in the far Northwest, where some frost damage occurred. Farm work made rapid progress under favorable weather conditions, except locally in some interior districts, where delayed by rain or wet soil. The period was generally favorable for the growth of corn in central and southern districts, and while cotton made steady improvement generally, it was too cool the latter part of the month in the more eastern districts and too cool and wet for best results in the extreme western portion of the belt. Winter wheat continued to improve, and spring wheat made good progress under favorable weather conditions. Grass and truck crops were favorably affected, except that it was too cool in the Northwest.